

EPCC NEWS

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
Volume 21, Issue 1
January 2021

The Joint Commission Accredited
Medicaid Certified
"Helping Kids SOAR"




Halloween at EPCC

The annual tradition for Halloween at EPCC is the Halloween Carnival. Our kids participate in fiendish festivities starting in the afternoon on Halloween. The kids kickoff the haunting holiday by dressing up in their favorite non-scary costume and trick-or-treating in the Administration Building. A lot of the staff also participate in the fun by sporting an original costume.

After trick-or-treating all the offices in the Admin Building, the children then attend the Halloween Carnival and enjoy playing games such as Dandy Donut Delight, Mummy Ring Toss, Dracula's Sucker Pull, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin, and Halloween Hopscotch. Children play for small prizes and vote for the best staff costume.

New for this year was a scrumptious fruit and veggie buffet. This addition is part of the Nutrition Education provided by EPCC's Nursing Department. The healthy and delicious snacks were presented beautifully and included a veggie owl and a fruit ghost.

Prior to all the Halloween festivities, the children carved pumpkins at school with the help of their teachers. A special dessert of handmade s'mores was enjoyed after lunch, courtesy of the teachers. Of course, the kids helped! A ghoulish good time was had by all!



Pictured: EPCC staff in their spooky attire!



FITNESS GOALS

The kids worked hard during the month of October perfecting their core strength. They competed in the Sit-Up Challenge with an attempt to reach a goal of 75,000 sit-ups! While they did not reach their goal, many of the children improved their form, increased their strength, and seemed to have fun enjoying some healthy competition! Did you know that the "core" is not just made up of abdominal muscles? The "core" refers to all of the muscles from your shoulders to your knees, including the back, legs, shoulders, and abdominal.



WINTER MORNING POEM BY OGDEN NASH

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men
And houses into birthday cakes
And spreading sugar over lakes.
Smooth and clean and frosty white,
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young,
Catching snowflakes on your tongue!
Snow is snowy when it's snowing.
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going



EPCC ROCKS THE VOTE!

The 2020 Election was held on Tuesday, November 3rd. The teachers at EPCC prepared a special lesson and voting activity to help kids learn about past presidents, the democracy and the election process, the Constitution and all of our freedoms, and why it's important for everyone age 18 and over to cast their vote.

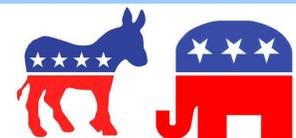
The voting event was made as realistic as possible by EPCC's teachers.

The children stood in line at the "polling place" where the teachers

set up voting booths in one of the classrooms. The teachers "registered" each child to vote, provided "ballots", and each child's vote was counted.

Although we can't tell you how the votes came out in the EPCC election (it's a secret), we can say that the children experienced a real-life scenario and hopefully were inspired to carry out their civic responsibility when they become adults. It's all about EPCC's vision of helping the children we serve make positive life choices and contributions to their community. We are honored to teach all of our children throughout their journey at EPCC on the road to recovery.

Pictured: EPCC staff member Alexis P. at one of the "voting booths" in EPCC's school.



FAIRY SNOW

YESTERDAY the sky was white,
For one big cloud was spread,
From east to west and north to south
Above my head.

But in the night the fairy-folk,
Began to wonder why
They saw no moon nor little stars
About the sky.

They didn't like that big white cloud,
So up they softly flew,
And tore it all to tiny bits
The whole night through.

And one by one the bits fell down,
Like feathers soft and white,
Until the ground was overspread
With dazzling white.

And now to-day that big white cloud,
Beneath my feet is spread,
And all the sky is blue again
Above my head.

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Christmas Highlights



The Grinch certainly couldn't steal Christmas from EPCC! Despite the current COVID-19 pandemic, EPCC's community friends and volunteers came through and helped to provide a wonderful, magical Christmas for each of EPCC's kids.

Our loyal community partners to include St. Benedict Cathedral, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Northside Kiwanis, and Olivet Community Church provided wonderful gifts for each child just as they have done every Christmas season for many years. We gained some new community individual and group partners this year as well. It was amazing to see that the kindness and generosity of our greater Evansville community did not waiver despite the limits placed on all of us due to the COVID-19 virus.

Lots of community friends, old and new, also pitched in and utilized the EPCC Christmas Wish List on Amazon. Thanks to each and every one of you for your willingness to give.

Last, but certainly not least, our good friends at 911 Gives Hope did not fail to deliver lots and lots of goodies on their "sleigh" again this year. A special thanks goes out to the men and women of that organization for all they do and to everyone who donated to that wonderful charity.

We at EPCC would not be able to continue the work we do every day to guide our children along the road to recovery without special people like our Community Friends. Thank You from all the children and staff. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and, most importantly, stayed safe and healthy.

Pictured:
Santa's
Helpers
from 911
Gives
Hope



You Can Help!!!

The following items are always needed for the children and their activities: gift cards to Michael's, Hobby Lobby, JoAnn Fabrics, Walmart, McDonald's, Subway, Dairy Queen, Domino's Pizza, Five Below, Kohl's, Target, and Amazon. Prepaid VISA gifts cards work well too.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ EPCC Served 39 children during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- ★ EPCC has served over 1450 of Indiana's Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children since opening in 1966.
- ★ EPCC collaborates with the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation to provide educational services to all our children. EPCC also participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program.



Notice: Please see below link to the USDA Non-Discrimination Statement. EPCC participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program, made possible by our partnership with Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. Our participation is monitored by the Indiana Department of Education.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/civil-rights/usda-nondiscrimination-statement-other-fns-programs>



We have been adjusting our visitation restrictions based on the county metric advisory level which determines levels based on number of weekly cases per 100,000 and the 7-day positivity rate. All staff are wearing masks at all times and are continuing with virtual meetings with outside persons/agencies. We are also currently reporting our weekly census, number of positive patients, number of patients with influenza, and PPE usage to CMS weekly. We are adjusting patient/agency visits on a weekly basis. We are continuing to disallow Therapeutic Leaves. When family visits are resumed, they will still be limited to parent/guardian only. The length of the visits will be limited to a maximum of one hour. Patients and family members will need to wear masks and wash hands properly.



Are We Doing Our Best?

It is the policy of EPCC to handle all concerns/questions in a timely manner.

If you have concerns or questions about patient rights, quality of patient care or safety, or ethical issues, contact:

EPCC's management at 812-477-6436.

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at the EPCC management level, you may contact:

Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Consumer Services or

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone - 1-800-901-1133
TDD - 1-317-232-7844

Indiana Disability Rights

1-800-622-4845

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at one of these levels, you may contact:

The Joint Commission

Phone - 1-630-792-5800
Web site - www.jointcommission.org

The Joint Commission is a voluntary accreditation program whose mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement.

We're Ready for Your Referrals

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC.
Referral packet information needed includes:

- Psychology Evaluation with IQ
- State Hospital Referral Form
- CANS
- Psychiatric Evaluation from your MD

Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, x226

**Need to contact us?
Call 812-477-6436 (exts. listed below) or email**

- Carlene Oliver, Superintendent (231) carlene.oliver@fssa.in.gov
- Stephen Ward, Director of Nursing (223) stephen.ward@fssa.in.gov
- Sharon Austin, Admissions Coord. (226)..... sharon.austin@fssa.in.gov
- Pam Dewey, Clin. Dir (233)..... pam.dewey@fssa.in.gov
- Kayce Clevenger, LCSW (239) kayce.clevenger@fssa.in.gov
- Cally Large, SW (238)..... callyn.large@fssa.in.gov
- Brandy Fox, Community Services Director (232) brandy.fox@fssa.in.gov

**MISSION
Resolve Needs – Build Strengths**

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Published periodically
for employees and friends of EPCC.

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
Division of Mental Health & Addiction
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